

D-R-A-F-T
D/OBI
12 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Review of OBI Action on the Question of Commerce's
Issuance of a License for the Export of a Worden
Gravimeter to Poland

1. The Geography Division has been involved since the enactment of U.S. export control laws in providing intelligence assessments on repeated license applications to Commerce to export Worden gravimeters to Communist countries, including Poland. Through the years, such applications have been denied repeatedly. When we learned through a U.S. Embassy/Warsaw telegram (Warsaw 1607) that another U.S. manufacturer's request was filed for a license to export a Worden gravimeter to Poland, and that the U.S. Embassy seemed to be leaning toward the favorable consideration of the license request, we prepared a memorandum on our own initiative (CIA/BI PN 69.1911P, dated 30 January 1967) outlining our intelligence judgment against the issuance of the license. This memorandum was submitted to [REDACTED] T/TP/OKR, who, in 25X1A9a turn, as CIA Alternate Member, OC, submitted it to Commerce.

2. It is our understanding that Commerce, having already issued the license, decided on the basis of our memorandum to recall it pending further study of the matter. When the U.S. Embassy/Warsaw, in its airmail of 13 April 1967, provided additional information on Poland's international cooperation in geodetic and gravimetric research and recommended approval of the license request, Commerce, in a memorandum to [REDACTED] dated 4 May 1967, requested another CIA review of the Polish information and a consequent possible revision of the original intelligence judgment.

3. Our review of the Polish information was submitted again to Commerce, via [REDACTED] in our memorandum CIA/BI PN 69.1911S. The memorandum, concurred in by OSI, also had the benefit of extended informal discussions with technical specialists from the USAF Aeronautical Chart and Information Center and the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office. The memorandum advised that the information supplied by the Poles confirmed our initial surmises and judgment and provided additional reasons that the export of the gravimeter to Poland would be contrary to U.S. national security interests.

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4. The question of the initial granting of the license by Commerce became a political issue when Senator Mundt noted its issuance. Willard Edwards, Chicago Tribune correspondent, devoted an entire article to the matter on 22 June 1967. Twice he refers to intelligence "agencies" or "sources" as responsible for the recall of the license. The article reportedly aroused additional irate responses from private citizens as well as from other Congressional representatives. It was also reported that Commerce received inquiries from one or more Congressmen on the complaint of Texas Instruments, Inc., when the license was recalled. Both the Washington Post and Sunday Star of 9 July 1967 carried the story of Senator Harry C. Byrd's objections to the license.

5. It is our understanding now that Commerce is in process of clearing a uniform response with DIAMC, and possibly others, to the protests that have been received by Commerce. DIAMC had abstained from taking a position, even though Commerce requested an opinion. Lack of agreement on the issues within DIAMC and a general lack of intelligence motivation underlay the disinclination to express a judgment. Now, however, we are informed that DIA will take a position that will generally be in agreement with ours.

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